

REMARKS

Claim 1 is amended. Claims 2 and 4 are cancelled. Claims 8-11 are withdrawn. Claims 1 and 3-7 remain in the case for further prosecution.

Claims 1, 3 and 5-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gilson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,336,934) in view of Greenhalgh (U.S. Patent No. 6,375,670).

Claim 1 has been amended to feature that the filaments constituting the support wires and filtered bodies are integrated and have an elastic force to form the shape. Support for this amendment is found at least at, for example, on Page 8, ll. 26 to Page 9, ll. 2, as originally filed (also ¶ [0042] of the associated publication). No new matter has been added.

With the above configuration, a wire for insertion into intravital tracts according to the present invention have no swollen nodal part formed in any of the joined portions. Therefore, in the present invention a wire is inserted easily into the intravital tract and is recovered easily from the intravital tracts so that the joined portions are not lodged in the tracks.

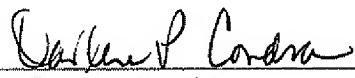
In contrast as shown in the Figures in Gilson et al. and Greenhalgh, as the filaments constituting the support wires and filter body are not integrated but divided, the joint portions are inevitably existing. Consequently, it is difficult to insert a wire into the intravital tract; and it is further difficult to recover the wire from the intravital tract so that it may pick up and catch something in the tract.

Therefore it is believed that the present invention is different in configuration from the cited documents and will be neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious over the teachings of the cited prior art. Claim 1 as amended is believed to be allowable. The associated dependent claims 3 and 5-7 are also believed to be allowable.

This amendment should place this case in condition for passing to issue. Such action is requested. If the Examiner feels that prosecution of the present application can be expedited by way of an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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